



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Misc

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1400 South 19th
Bozeman, MT 59718

March 8, 2002

To: Governor's Office, Todd O'Hair, Room 204, State Capitol, P.O. Box 200801, Helena, MT 59620-0801
Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Room 106, P.O. Box 201704, Helena, MT 59620
Dept. Environmental Quality, Metcalf Building, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901
Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks:

Director's Office
FWP Commissioners
Legal Unit

Parks Division
Wildlife Division
Fisheries Division

Lands Section
Design & Construction

MT Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, P.O. Box 201202, Helena, MT 59620-1201
Montana State Parks Association, P.O. Box 699, Billings, MT 59103
Montana State Library, 1515 E. Sixth Avenue, P.O. Box 201800, Helena, MT 59620
James Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, P.O. Box 1184, Helena, MT 59624
Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624
George Ochenski, P.O. Box 689, Helena, MT 59624
Park County Commissioners, 414 E. Callender, Livingston, MT 59047
Jerry DiMarco, P.O. Box 1571, Bozeman, MT 59771-1571
Montana Wildlife Federation, P.O. Box 1175, Helena, MT 59624
Wayne Hurst, P.O. Box 728, Libby, MT 59923
Glenn Hockett, Gallatin Wildlife Association, 745 Doane Road, Bozeman, MT 59715
Tom Sather, Headwaters Fish & Game Association, P.O. Box 1941, Bozeman, MT 59771-1941
Perry Backus, 65 Redtail, Dillon, MT 59725
John Gatchell, Montana Wilderness Association, P.O. Box 635, Helena, MT 59624
Public Lands Access Association, William Fairhurst, Box 247, Three Forks, MT 59752
Jack Atcheson, State Lands Coalition, 3210 Ottawa Street, Butte, MT 59701
Scott McMillion, P.O. Box 1226, Livingston, MT 59047
Bob Raney, 212 South 6th, Livingston, MT 59047
Scot Shuler, USDA-FS, P.O. Box 5, Gardiner, MT 59030
Jay Keifer, Yellowstone Valley Wildlife Unlimited, 13 Riverside Dr, Livingston, MT 59047
Lee Watson, Livingston Trout Unlimited, US 89 S., Clyde Park, MT 59018
Bert Otis, Box 60, Emigrant, MT 59027
Park County Conservation District, 5242 Hwy 89 S., Livingston, MT 59047


Ladies and Gentlemen,

You recently received a draft environmental assessment of Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) proposal to partially fund installation of a pipeline to repair leaks in the Sixmile Ditch. This ditch carries water from Sixmile Creek to Dailey Lake. Except for minor points concerning the pipeline course and how pipe sections would be joined (addendum February 12, 2002) the draft document was not changed after public review. Including the addendum, please consider your original version to be the final draft.

I find that there are no significant impacts associated with this action and conclude that an Environmental Impact Statement is not needed. The completed Environmental Assessment is an appropriate level of analysis.

Thank you very much for your interest and involvement.

Sincerely,


Patrick L. Flowers
Regional Supervisor

Park

DECISION NOTICE
SIXMILE CREEK DIVERSION REPAIR
Prepared by Region 3, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
March 8, 2001

PROPOSAL

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) proposes to partially fund the installation of an 18 inch diameter by 1,300 foot pipeline through a porous section of Sixmile Ditch to repair water leaks in the ditch. This ditch is used to deliver water from Sixmile Creek to Dailey Lake. FWP will contribute one-third of the total construction cost, up to \$13,000. Remaining costs will be met by two private cooperators.

MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (MEPA) PROCESS

MEPA requires FWP to assess the potential consequences of this proposed action for the human and natural environment. The pipeline proposal, the use of a liner, and the no action alternative were described in an Environmental Assessment (EA) completed by FWP on February 1, 2002. A 30 day public comment period for this EA ended March 4, 2002.

ISSUES RAISED IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

No significant environmental issues were identified in the EA. Water savings to Sixmile Creek and improved efficiency of water delivery to Dailey Lake were identified as the primary benefits of the project.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

We received only two comments during the public comment period, one verbal and one in writing. Both comments were from Park County residents. Both supported the pipeline project as proposed.

DECISION

After review of this proposal and the corresponding public support, it is my decision to contribute up to \$13,000 for installation of the pipeline intended to repair water leaks in the Sixmile Ditch. This limited action poses virtually no risk to the environment.

I find there to be no significant impacts associated with this action and conclude that an Environmental Impact Statement is not needed. The completed EA is an appropriate level of analysis sufficient to identify all significant potential impacts of the project.

Patrick J. Flowers
Regional Supervisor
Bozeman, MT
March 8, 2002